

PATENT APPLN. NO. 10/811,302
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

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IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The paragraph beginning at page 3, line 12 has been amended as follows:

A second preferred embodiment of the method of the invention is characterized in

- that wrapping film band is wrapped over the supporting frame consisting of supporting elements, thus forming a film girder girdle tube on the supporting frame,
- that a plastic film girder girdle of desired length is cut off the film girder girdle tube,
- that the product to be packaged and/or the plastic film girder girdle are/is moved on the track so that the product to be packaged remains inside the plastic film girder girdle cut off,
- and that the supporting frame consisting of supporting elements is removed from inside the plastic film girder girdle and the plastic film girder girdle is allowed to shrink and tighten around the product to be packaged.

The paragraph beginning at page 3, line 22 has been amended as follows:

A third preferred embodiment of the method of the invention is characterized in

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- that wrapping film band is wrapped over the supporting frame consisting of supporting elements in a continuous manner so that a film ~~gird~~ girdle tube continuously increasing in length is formed on the supporting frame,
- that a plastic film girdle of desired length is cut off the plastic film girdle tube during the wrapping operation
- that, while the wrapping operation is being continued, the product to be packaged and/or the plastic film girdle is moved on the track so that the product to be packaged remains inside the plastic film girdle cut off,
- and that the supporting frame consisting of supporting elements is removed from inside the plastic film girdle and the plastic film girdle is allowed to shrink and tighten around the product to be packaged.

The paragraph beginning at page 6, line 9 has been amended as follows:

Fig. 1 presents a side view of a wrapping machine 10 according to an embodiment of the invention, comprising a track 11 and a rotating ring 12. Attached to the ~~track 12~~ ring 12 is a film dispensing carriage, which is provided with a film reel 14 containing wrapping plastic film 15. Placed on top of the product 16 to be packaged moving on the track 11 are transverse pieces 17a

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and 17b to facilitate later manipulation of the product, said pieces being bound in the same bundle with the product 16 itself by means of girdles to be produced by wrapping.

The paragraph beginning at page 7, line 10 has been amended as follows:

In Fig. 3, the transfer of the film girdle 18 onto the product 16 to be packaged and the transverse piece 17a has been started by having the supporting elements 21a-21d turned about the axles 23a-23d. ~~the film~~ The film girdle 18 formed from stretched film 15 can now descend onto the product 16 and tightens over the transverse piece 17a and the product 16 to be packaged so that these become bound together by the girdle 18.

The paragraph beginning at page 7, line 16 has been amended as follows:

In Fig. 4, the film girdle 18 has been tightened over the product 16 to be packaged and the transverse piece 17a. ~~the supporting~~ The supporting elements 21a-21d have been turned about the axles 23a-23d to their outermost position, so the film girdle 18 has been able to be transferred onto the surface of the product 16 to be packaged. In this situation, the formation of the film girdle 18 has been completed and the supporting elements 21a-21d

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begin to turn again to the position of readiness shown in Fig. 1 and ~~are~~ ready ready for the next film girdle wrapping operation. Therefore, the rotating motion of the ring 12 can be quickly started and the wrapping operation for forming the next film girdle, which is to be wrapped over transverse piece 17b, can be started immediately. The product 16 to be packaged also starts moving and is again at the right position on the track 11 when the next film girdle is ready to be mounted.

The paragraph beginning at page 7, line 28 has been amended as follows:

Fig. 5 presents a wrapping machine 10 according to the invention as seen from the direction of the track 11. A wrapping operation for forming a film girdle around a product 16 to be packaged has just been started. The end of the plastic film band 15 coming from the film reel 14 is held in the gripper 24 and the ring 12 has rotated through a nearly full revolution. During the second revolution, the end of the wrapping plastic film band 15 can be released from the gripper 24 because the film layers wrapped upon each other stick together. After that, the wrapping action for forming a film girdle is continued until the number of layers of film 15 is e.g. three.